COMMUNITY SCHOOLS UPDATE
BY KATINA WILCHER AND ABE FERNANDEZ
PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

Healthy Beginnings
Champaign Park District
City of Champaign - Community Coalition
NAACP Education Committee
Dream Girls Academy
Parent and Family Learning Lab - Parkland College and Douglass Branch Library
Girls Go For It
McKinley Church food pantry and weekend bags
Bridge Church
New Covenant Church
University of Illinois - iPALS summer camp
Eagles’ Nest
Scouts of America - Scout Reach
University of Illinois Extension
OSF Healthcare
Kids Plus at Garden Hills
CUPHD
United Way
Parkland College Project READ
Champaign Public Library - Douglass Branch
Promise Health/Dental
WILL Education
University of Illinois College of Kinesiology and Community Health
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

- Nutrition Classes for 6 weeks
- Currently classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

- Financial Literacy workshop
  - Held 2 sessions - Stratton and BTW
  - Resources and information provided
  - Parents were surveyed
  - Parent and Child Together activity
PARENT & FAMILY LEARNING LAB

- Joint partnership between CUSD 4, Champaign Public Library- Douglass Branch, and Parkland College- ProjectREAD
- Expansion of our pilot program, The Parent Lab
- Awarded the Penny Severns Family Literacy grant- 35k
- 2 Certified Teachers provide children’s education
- Parkland College hired a part-time Program Coordinator
- Stratton Academy of the Arts hosts the program
- Program components:
  - Adult education
  - Children’s education
  - Library services
  - Parenting education
  - Parent and child together activities
Parent CommUniversity Initiatives of 2019

**June**- Summer Camp at Garden Hills in partnership with the Champaign Park District

**July**- Kindergarten Readiness Camps at Stratton Academy of the Arts, Garden Hills, and Booker T. Washington STEM Academy

**August**- Back to School Drive at Douglass Park- Backpacks and School Supplies were given to Unit 4 students

**September**- Parent and Family Learning Lab every Monday night, Special Person Day, Financial Planning Workshops

**October**- Illini Tailgate/ Football Game, STEAM event with hands on learning

**November**- FREE Family Movie Night at Virginia Theater

**December**- Daniel Tiger event- WILL Education
Parent and Family Learning Lab continues every Monday. FREE light dinner is served at 5:30pm, childcare provided, and tutors help parents achieve academic goals from the Parkland College Project Read program. Unit 4 Teachers help students with literacy and math skills. Incentives can be earned with learning and fun for the whole family!

Free 6 week Nutrition Classes in Partnership with the University of Illinois Extension. Classes will be held at the Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department on Mondays and Fridays and the Wednesday classes are held at the Douglass Library from 6pm-7:30pm each night. Parents and children can learn to follow a recipe, healthy nutrition habits, and eat their meal together.

Stress workshops offered at Booker T. Washington Jan. 16, 23, 30th. Presenters from OSF will come to share with parents about identifying and coping with the stressors of parenting and daily life.
- Various parenting classes at Garden Hills Academy
- Home visiting program
- Mobile Health Clinic collaboration
- Play group at GH
KINDERGARTEN READINESS WITH THE UNITED WAY

- Kindergarten Readiness Camps
- Held at BTW, GH, ST
WILL EDUCATION

- Daniel Tiger literacy event, plus holiday STEM activities
- STEAM night
  - Free books
  - Free movie
  - Engaging activities for all ages
CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT SUMMER CAMP AT GHA

Monday-Thursday (8:30-5:30pm), June 10-July 11 (5 weeks)
Located at Garden Hills Elementary and Springer Cultural Center
25, 3 – 5 grade students enrolled (expansion for summer 2020)
Input from Unit 4 Teaching and Learning Coordinators
Curriculum taught by certified teachers
Community Partner: Champaign Park District

Camp Goals
Build skills in math, writing, enrichment, technology, arts, sports and recreation & develop new and existing social and emotional skills
Community Schools: A Strategy, Not a Program

Abe Fernández
Director, National Center for Community Schools
What is a Community School?
A Strategy, Not a Program

“A strategy for organizing the resources of the school and community around student success...”

Pat Harvey, Former Superintendent
St. Paul Public Schools
What is a Community School?

A community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between a school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, services, supports and opportunities leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities.

Coalition for Community Schools
Children’s Aid Developmental Triangle

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

CHILDREN'S AID

CORE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

COMMUNITY

FAMILY

CHILD
Programmatic Elements

- Adult Education
- College Readiness
- Core Instruction
- Early Childhood
- Economic Development
- Expanded Learning
- Family Engagement
- Health and Wellness
- Pregnancy Prevention
- Restorative Practices
- And others...
Strategic Functions

- Continuous Improvement
- Data Collection/Analysis
- Evaluation
- Fundraising/Sustainability
- Individualized Supports
- Needs/Assets Assessment
- Policy/Advocacy
- School-Community Partnerships
- Strategic Communications
LPI-NEPC (2017) identified four pillars

1. Integrated student supports
2. Expanded learning time and opportunities
3. Family and community engagement
4. Collaborative leadership and practices
Changes over 20+ Years

Where we were then
- Co-location
- Collection of programs
- CBOs as vendors
- Wrap-around services (often around “fixing” kids)
- Program-centered
- Time-limited project
- Innovators developing one or a few schools

Where we are now
- Collective impact
- Whole-school focus
- CBOs as partners
- Integrated services, opportunities and supports
- Child-centered
- Long-term strategy
- Developing systems of community schools
CONTINUED NEEDS

- Resources. Staffing. Commitment.
ON THE HORIZON

- Proposal for Lighted Schoolhouse at Garden Hills Academy
- Expand health and wellness through nutrition/evening meals
- Proposal for pre-k at Garden Hills Academy
- Develop parent hub
- School-based mental health services
- Expand PFLL to include math nights
- Targeted professional development with key stakeholders, in partnership with the NCCS
- Commitment to Kindergarten Readiness Camps
- Continue developing programs and initiatives, as well as increase viable, relevant community partnerships
- Address significant gaps in Community Schools staffing- develop a meaningful organizational structure
- Strategic planning to develop a sustainable Community Schools model